

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 INRE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:FJTATU/SB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

EA/P - MSMITH (DRAFT)

EA - RHMILLER

OSD/PA - LTC BARR

ODS/ISA - LTC KING

S/S - LCJOHNSTONE

NSC - MR. BARNLS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC PA LNO BKK IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI IMMEDIATE

13TH AF IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277343

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM

-- THAILAND AND RESIDUAL PRESENCE

REF: A. BANGKOK 24235 B. STATE 271458

C. CINCPACAF 190200Z NOV '75 D. BANGKOK 24604

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR REQUIREMENT FOR COORDINATION WITH

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AND CONCURRENCE BY THE THAI IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY.

2. HOWEVER, REF A POINTS OUT THAT PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT ALL U.S. COMBAT FORCES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND HAVE IMPLIED THAT SOME NON-COMBAT PERSONNEL WOULD REMAIN. WE THUS DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR OUR SIDE, IN EFFECT, TO "NO COMMENT" (PER PARA 4 REF A) WHILE THE THAI ARE EXPANDING ON THESE THEMES. THIS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF GENERATING UNFOUNDED SPECULATION.

3. WE WOULD PREFER IF YOU COULD PERSUADE THE THAI TO AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY: (A) IF ASKED, WE WILL CONFIRM THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW OUR COMBAT UNITS FROM THAILAND BY MARCH 20 (PER REF B); (B) AGREEMENT ON BASE CLOSEOUTS WILL BE MADE IN JOINT ANNOUNCEMENTS AS

THEY OCCUR, WITH NO REFERENCE TO OTHER CLOSEOUTS WHICH MAY BE UNDER DISCUSSION; (C) ALSO ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS ONLY, WE WILL SAY THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THE NATURE OF ANY RESIDUAL NON-COMBAT PRESENCE ARE CONTINUING AND THAT WHEN DECISIONS ARE REACHED, THEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED. WE EXPECT THAT OUR CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND TO SERVE IN TRAINING CAPACITIES WILL PLAY A ROLE IN ANY RESIDUAL NON-COMBAT PRESENCE; (D) BANGKOK 24604 JUST RECEIVED. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL RE KORAT CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT NOVEMBER 24.

4. ON OTHER SPECIFICS, WHICH WE SHOULD THINK WOULD NOT REQUIRE THAI CONCURRENCE: (A) WE AGREE FOR THE BODY COUNT REASONS STATED BY CINCPACAF (REF C), THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE FLIGHT-BY-FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS AS AIRCRAFT DEPART THE BASES. (B) IF ASKED WHERE DEPARTING AIRCRAFT ARE BEING DEPLOYED, THE RESPONSE SHOULD BE IN GENERAL TERMS OF "TO OTHER US TACTICAL UNITS". IF PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS, QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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